

Date: August 16, 2013

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: W. Bowman Ferguson, Deputy City Manager
From: Marvin G. Williams, Director of Public Works

Subject: City Code Revision Regarding Infrastructure Acceptance

Executive Summary

The current Durham City Code provisions applicable to infrastructure acceptance, fail to clearly state the procedure for City Council acceptance for maintenance of sanitary sewers, water mains, and storm drainage systems associated with new development. In order to clearly identify the process for formal acceptance of public infrastructure, a clarification of Chapter 62, Article II, Division 3 of the Durham City Code is in order.

Recommendation

The Public Works Department recommends that the City Council adopt the proposed changes to the Durham City Code, Chapter 62, Article II, Division 3, as attached.

Background

For many years now the City of Durham has had a formal acceptance policy through the Durham City Code regarding acceptance of streets. As a part of this acceptance process, streets were accepted with an understanding that utilities located within street rights of way were also part of the acceptance. The proposed Code revisions provide a more definitive process for the acceptance of utilities, both within street rights of way and in public utility easements. Therefore, revisions to Chapter 62, Article II, Division 3 of the Durham City Code are recommended.

Issues and Analysis

The current Chapter 62, Article II, Division 3 is focused on street acceptance. The proposed Code revisions more clearly define the formal acceptance procedure for streets, water, sewer, and storm drainage systems.

Alternatives

1. Council may elect to not modify the existing Chapter 62, Article II, Division 3 of the Durham City Code. This will maintain the status quo.

Financial Impacts

Modifications to the existing Code would not result in any additional financial impact, as streets and other infrastructure are currently being accepted under the current Code provisions. This modification will serve to clarify the infrastructure acceptance process.

SDBE Summary

N/A